

Message Text

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12

ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4594

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BAGORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONGEN LUANDA

AMCONGEN LOURENCO MARQUES

USMISSION GENEVA

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TAGS: PFOR, UN, SOCI, ECOSOC

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AD HOC COMMITTEE TO VISIT
EUROPE AND AFRICA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UN/OPI PRESS RELEASE OF JUNE 28
CONCERNING JULY 15-AUGUST 21 VISIT TO EUROPE AND AFRICA BY
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS:

"THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS OF THE COMMISSION ON
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HUMAN RIGHTS WILL UNDERTAKE A FIELD MISSION TO EUROPE

AND AFRICA DURING JULY AND AUGUST TO RECEIVE EVIDENCE AND HEAR TESTIMONY CONCERNING NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN MATTERS FALLING WITHIN ITS MANDATE. THE REPORT FROM THAT MISSION WILL FORM THE BASIS OF ITS REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION AND TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL IN 1975.

THE WORKING GROUP, WHICH IS TO BEGIN ITS MISSION ON 15 JULY IN LONDON AND CONCLUDE IT ON 21 AUGUST IN GENEVA, IS ALSO TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO VISIT BLANTYRE, MALAWI; LUSKA, ZAMBIA; GABERONE, BOTSWANA; DAR ES SALAAM, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA; KINSHASA, ZAIRE; AND DAKAR, SENEGAL. PRIOR TO THE MISSION TWO MEMBERS OF THE SIX-MEMBER EXPERT BODY WILL HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) FROM 10 TO 12 JULY AT THAT ORGANIZATION'S HEADQUARTERS IN ADDIS ABABA.

QUESTIONS BEING INVESTIGATED

THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP, ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER RESOLUTION 2 (XXIII) OF 6 MARCH 1967, HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING A WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, INCLUDING:

- GRAVE MANIFESTATIONS OF APARTHEID IN THE SITUATION PREVAILING IN SOUTH AFRICA AND OF COLONIALISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA;
- ALLEGATIONS OF ILL-TREATMENT AND TORTURE OF PRISONERS, DETAINEES AND PERSONS IN POLICE CUSTODY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA;
- INHUMAN ACTS RESULTING FROM PUNISHMENT METED OUT TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA;
- TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS;
- CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM ILLEGAL ARRESTS OF NAMIBIAN NATIONALS BY SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES;
- THE QUESTION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA;
- CONDITIONS OF AFRICANS IN THE SO-CALLED "TRANSIT CAMPS" AND "NATIVE RESERVES"; AND
- THE SYSTEM OF RECRUITMENT OF AFRICAN WORKERS AND THE DISPARITY OF WAGES BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE COLONIAL TERRITORIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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THE ORIGINAL MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP WAS TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, DETAINEES AND PERSONS IN POLICE CUSTODY IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN 1968, THE COMMISSION EXTENDED THAT MANDATE TO INCLUDE THE COLONIAL TERRITORIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THE NEXT YEAR THE MANDATE WAS FURTHER ENLARGED TO INQUIRE INTO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND

CAPTURED FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE CONDITIONS OF AFRICANS IN TRANSIT CAMPS AND NATIVE RESERVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND GRAVE MANIFESTATIONS OF COLONIALISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THAT REGION.

MEANWHILE, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL HAD ALSO ASKED THE WORKING GROUP TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED INFRINGEMENTS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA (RESOLUTION 1216 (XLIII) OF 1 JUNE 1967). THAT MANDATE WAS ENLARGED BY THE COUNCIL IN 1968 TO INCLUDE NAMIBIA AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA (RESOLUTION 1302 (XLIV) OF 28 MAY).

IT WAS FURTHER ENLARGED BY THE COUNCIL IN 1970, WHEN THE GROUP WAS AUTHORIZED TO INVESTIGATE, IN THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES OF AFRICA, THE CONDITIONS OF AFRICAN PRODUCERS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS, OF THE SECTORS OF UNORGANIZED LABOUR SUCH AS FARM LABOUR, AND OF WORKERS FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA WHO HAVE SOUGHT EMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA (RESOLUTION 1509 (XLVIII) OF 27 MAY).

IN ITS MOST RECENT ACTION CONCERNING THE WORKING GROUP, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION 1868 (LVI) OF 17 MAY 1974 REQUESTING THE GROUP "TO REMAIN ACTIVE AND VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES" AND TO REPORT TO THE COMMISSION NEXT YEAR ON ANY SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA REQUIRING URGENT INVESTIGATION. THE COUNCIL DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE MANDATE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP AND EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS AVAILABLE TO UNDERTAKE ANY INQUIRIES WHICH THE ASSEMBLY MIGHT DESIRE TO ASSIGN TO IT.

THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED A DECISION (18 (LVI)) REFERRING TO THE GROUP A LETTER FROM THE INDUSTRIAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
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(ILO), ALONG WITH A COMPLAINT BY THE LESOTHO GENERAL WORKERS' UNION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, ALLEGING VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN THE KILLING OF FIVE LESOTHO WORKERS AT A SOUTH AFRICAN MINE NEAR CARLETONVILLE LAST SEPTEMBER.

MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP

THE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP, WHO ARE APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND WHO SERVE IN THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITY, ARE AS FOLLOWS:
KEBA M'BAYE, FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF SENEGAL, CHAIRMAN AND RAPPORTEUR;
BRANIMIR JANKOVIC, PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT BELGRADE UNIVERSITY, YUGOSLAVIA, VICE-CHAIRMAN;
HUMBERTO DIAZ-CASANUEVA, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF WRITING,

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, AND A FORMER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE UNITED NATIONS;
FELIX ERMACORA, PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, AUSTRIA;
A.S. MANI, OF INDIA, NOW COUNSELLOR TO THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BHUTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS;
MAHMUD N. RATTANSEY, COUNSELLOR IN THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA IN PARIS."
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